

Making 'Rush To Judgement': Mark Lane and Robert Primes recorded by Randy Benson (2013)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIF5w3u2RnM> (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIF5w3u2RnM>)

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Prior to the screening of the 1966 film, Rush To Judgment (cdsorch.org/archives/20303), Writer/Producer Mark Lane and Cinematographer Robert Primes, appeared via online stream for a brief discussion.

Recorded by Randolph Benson, Oct 28 2013

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60 years which is a quarter of the history of the american judicial system more than a quarter of history but at that point i've been a lawyer for about a decade and i saw oswald being paraded and i heard him say i'm time of passing if uh if comes out will show i did nothing at all i'm being framed etc and i thought did this guy walk into my office and said that to me because a lot of my clients say they say they're innocent when they're not but i have to take it at face value ask him well where were you who your alibi witnesses give me facts about where you were let's even develop this case as the defense because before oswald could talk to anyone he was murdered in the basement of the dallas and police courts building there murdered while being surrounded by fbi agents dallas police officers secret service they murdered him before he could tell us a word about what his defense would be i thought that uh he was entitled to a defense even after his death i thought that the american people were entitled to the truth and so i began my inquiry of course i couldn't talk to the most important part of the evidence that is lee harvey oswald's asking where he was and to check out the alibis i had to start with the dead client in essence which makes it potentially more difficult but not impossible especially since in this case there was no let me repeat that so it's clear there was no evidence leaking linking

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no evidence leaking linking lee harvey oswald to the assassination of president kennedy no evidence and no evidence in all these years has ever come forward the uh what they said is that lehigh oswald was in mexico city where he met with the cubans at their embassy and the soviet union at their embassy and so this was uh it was not true the man who ran the cia for the united states of america was david atlee phillips and he ran it from his office in mexico city mexico city is better than america for him because no inquiring reporters or photographers no local laws that he could not violate without paying a few bucks and so the head of the cia for america and the rest of western hemisphere was david phillips and he was in mexico city not long ago uh i was at a forum this is now half a century later almost i was at a forum with david adley phillips and uh someone asked him a question and the apologist for the warren commission said yes mark and david atley phillips said we never had any evidence that oswald was in mexico city the whole case was based on that we never had that evidence and so a politician for the warren commission said yeah after mark wayne cross-examined him in a skillful way phil's made that statement fact is i was on the panel i heard him make the statement i didn't cross-examine it i didn't ask him any questions and what happened his answer was in response to a student whose name i didn't know then and don't even know now who step and said only not even an accusatory way mr phillips tell us about mexico city that's all he said

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mexico city that's all he said and philip said when the truth comes out when it finally comes out there was no evidence that oswald was ever in mexico city and this was the guy who ran the cia for the this hemisphere from mexico city and the whole place was built around the fact that oswald was in mexico city why did they want to say ozil was there when he wasn't well first of all they said he was there in september of 1963. those were watching us by the caa and he was at that point we were told later planning the assassination that's why he went to the mexico city to the cuban embassy see if he could a flight to cuba then to the soviet union embassy so i could go from cuba to moscow to be free the fact this dude is never in mexico city and david phillips admits that now but what was the point of saying that it was to terrify anyone who looked into the kennedy assassination because the first thing earl warren said when he was asked when will the truth ever come out this is the chairman of the warren commission appointed by president johnson was really the johnson commission but they called the warren commission he was a chief justice to look he was appointed to look into the facts and here we have uh warren raised in this issue about oswald and saying if the truth ever comes out hundreds of thousands of americans might die that was published in all the newspapers at the time what did he mean it would start world war three because it would show that oswald was in mexico city meeting with the russians meeting with the cubans in september came back and killed the president two months later they accept that oswald was not there

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they accept that oswald was not there but someone was the cia in september of 1963 and this is the most crucial information in the entire case in september 1963 the cia was setting up oswald as the assassin the assassin in a crime which had not taken place and would not take place for two months how did the cia know kennedy would be killed two months later because they planned it and they did it um how did you um embark upon the path of going to dallas because you started re if i'm not mistaken you started researching the case and um and starting the process of writing right what would become rush to judgment in before the end of the year in 1963 so well i certainly i started 1964 but uh and the film came out in 66 i did i wrote it was the book and the film the film rushed to judgment and the book which we're doing simultaneously because what i did is i found the witnesses the eyewitnesses to each of the relevant events the surviving witnesses featured the relative events and filmed them and the transcripts of what they said will play a large part in the book first to judgment and actually comprise the whole film uh judgment and uh i was blessed in doing this with a really wonderful documentary filmmaker emil d'antonio and uh who i didn't know i know better for and he called me one day and said i'd like to talk to you about a film it's a film about what and he said about the kennedy assassination and so we met

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assassination and so we met and spent a great deal of time talking about this mostly in a bar actually we had irish coffee i think we broke the record for the amount of irish coffee we got the first day we met but dean was actually we called him was actually great and he and he played a major part in the film and therefore since the film interviews which i i conducted interviews with these set them up and did dump the lights and stuff like that and uh and i found the witnesses and interviewed them and those transcripts basically played a more a large part in the name of the whole film virtual judgment but they also played a large part in the book rush to judgment which i've never written about before and uh i did a manuscript turned down by every publisher in america i think there was 16 of them i'm not even sure anymore and they all rejected it they read it and then three weeks later four weeks later two weeks later each one said sorry we can't do it well after we brought the actions many many years later under the freedom information act which didn't even exist at that point but existed shortly thereafter it was the only thing that came out of the kennedy assassination which was good was a freedom of information act saying we're entitled to documents and we got these documents and uh based upon those documents we learned a great deal about what had happened that day in dallas and uh the antonio called the saw me on a television show called and said i'd like to do a film and so this the interviews that i did in which i set up the wiki film uh became

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became a sorry there was a little glitch here even uh we have glitches even today even with the our medical care program so expect at least that here and the antonio was filming this that became the film rush to judgment because he called me and said i'd like to work with you and i said great we met i said we had a few drinks at a the west side of manhattan doesn't exist anymore my memory is too about it though and uh i wrote the book deed to the film the book the first book i ever wrote which had to perform been turned down by every publish in america so i finally went to england and found the bodily head in in london 100 years old very conservative firm and instead of checking with the cia or the fbi about whether we should publish this book they sent it to professor you trevor roper who was the uh oxford professor regis professor means he was pointed by the crown at uni at oxford university and he read it for the publisher i had gone to philip reinhart and winston and instead of going to the cia fbi they decided to go to someone who must be interested and uh and said in english and the body had asked him what they what he thought of it he was also given a book by gerald ford called portrait of the assassin ford was a member of the warren commission and their uh professor trevor wrote back and when he was asked he said well gerald ford's book is sort of a children's version of the warren commission and he said to me later but i didn't add that i should have i thought at the time

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should have i thought at the time i thought it'd be a disrespectful i was going to say if you decide to publish it you should send a box to crayons along with it he didn't say that to them he said mark lane's book will be a classic the date is published and i will be honored if i could write the introduction it which is a a bit of a problem for me because he was a worldwide authority on these matters they'd written the leading book on the last days of hitler and the other person who said he would do the introduction was lord bertrand russell and uh my publisher i said can they both do one the forward one to and after it and my publisher said no burton brussels no that's being left well yeah he he was not he was a humanitarian i guess even though that left but uh and so they said we will publish it with you trevor rover's introduction and i still have the burton brussel introduction which i preferred trevor robert was great and i'm not criticizing him but uh i thought maybe i didn't have to provide broken wrestling traffic but i didn't control the publishing industry that's what the british did and then when every publishing america turned it down arthur cohen of hope reinhardt and winston uh talked with the british and said we'd like to publish that in america so rush to judgment the first book ever wrote could not be published in america by an american publisher until the british publishers providely had a conservative old film firm decided to publish it and it was then published in the united states by pope reinhart and winston but first accepted in another country after having been rejected by every publisher in the united states

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publisher in the united states so that's the problem which is sort of ongoing that's why i raise it now it's ongoing we don't get all the facts so it's you know it's so much better now than it was a half century ago we have the internet that's changed the world and it's changed our ability to get information uh but we still want to offer us some suggestions which are not popular with the power structure still problems today well let me um bring bob in bob how did you get involved in in rusted judgment he was a total fluke um i was studying music at the conservatory of music in san francisco i had just started getting interested in cinematography uh my roommate at the conservatory uh richard stark uh by the way are you getting audio yep sounds good um i know richard stark yes um richard richard yeah richard richard got involved with emil and and yourself by the way you look great you had blacker hair the last time i saw you 50 years ago and anyway um so he called me and he said you want to get involved in a documentary and i said sure hell i wanted to shoot anything i was uh very green and just getting started out so um we had this incredible adventure um i don't mind saying it was a little scary we didn't the police knew we were there um uh we knew that things were not totally truthful um every time a car backfired in dealies in dealey square i don't know anybody else i i hit the ground i'm sure there were you know i imagine there were shots being fired and um it was a real eye-opener i um uh

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it was a real eye-opener i um uh i consider myself pretty left but i really was not i didn't have any reason to be suspicious uh of what you know the government was saying in those days but after witness after witness um and i heard the questions being asked and then typically they'd say where were the shots fired from and they'd point like right there over the book depository building and they would say how do you know that well the warren commission proved it where do you think the shots were fired from oh over there by the grassy knoll and when you see that over and over again from all these different points of view and from ordinary people that you know you were there when they knocked down the door there couldn't be any you know i mean they weren't fake witnesses or anything it just absolutely convinced me that um we were getting the truth uh and that there were a lot of people that didn't want us to uh do i do that so it helped radicalize me i can't say i knew a lot about it or you know i i went into it for altruistic reasons but i sure but i sure do learn i sure learned a lot yeah it's good to meet you for the first time now hi hi it's it's been a few years mark yes it has been a few years yes it was last century literally um well i i don't know about you but i think we uh like to uh watch your movie gentlemen um before we get going are there any uh any quick questions that you members of the audience would like to ask okay well um i got one ready yeah yeah if you could do it again is there anything left out of the original you'd like to put in now

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like to put in now did you hear that question mark um who's music too um this is a member of the audience mr ira david wood the third um let me let me take one second to um like to recognize a couple people in the audience so mark lane was one of the very first um average average joe to really look into the uh assassination but there have been researchers people from all different walks of life who have just taken and find themselves to ask questions and to do a little digging themselves and uh here in the triangle we're lucky enough fortunate to have two individuals who've done some wonderful country made some wonderful contributions to um revealing this history and we have two of them sitting right here um ira david wood iii the uh famous actor if you've ever seen scrooge and uh christmas carol here in the triangle then this is the man right here and the uh founder of the theater in the park in raleigh as well as um grover proctor um historian and mathematician and um lifelong academic he uh i don't know if anyone saw an article i wrote last year about the rally call um but um that appeared in indy but uh grover proctor had um done the lion's share of research on that and he's the one who actually um coined the term the raleigh hall

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um coined the term the raleigh hall and uh we can get into that after the film if you're interested but um mr wood asked if there was anything that you would change mark or anything that you would have added or would have done differently with the film is there anything that would work that depends upon my position that you would have done differently i'm sorry excuse me one might not change the film the film well the film speaks for itself at the uh it wasn't what i said is what the witnesses said and uh we asked the witnesses what they saw what they heard and they presented their views i i think um they did it heroically uh sm holland railroad supervisor was up on the overpass and uh and he told me he had been he was had been a dallas deputy sheriff before then but he was up there and he had been warned not to talk to me i was coming to town and he was warned not to talk to me and i said yet who you are were in your house to being filmed he said well sir will you see your president whether you support him or not the election see your president have his head blown off right in front of your eyes and you don't have the courage to tell the american people the truth about that event then i say let's give this country back to the indians if they'll have it and so that was uh really an encouraging thing to see people been threatened yet came forward because they thought

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because they thought this was so important that the american people learn from the witnesses and uh truly inspiring to me so many witnesses so courageous um bob what was what was the next film you worked on and have you did you shoot any other films that were quite as uh as uh interesting oh wow i i don't think i've shot anything as as that's that's had the continuing interest that russia judgement did we did a documentary

on a uh spiritual healer in peru it was pretty revealing and nice but um you know i mean it it never uh i don't think it was as important um it's interesting this is my first time out i wasn't very much of a cinematographer but uh uh the you know my my my career is more shooting dramatic films and i try to shoot good quality stuff of course but um no i just uh unfortunately was not able to to stay in this kind of area of documentaries where you're really going in and and doing stuff as as significant as this the answer is kind of no you know well perhaps you too could collaborate on on rush to judgment too oh i'm ready i'm ready i'm ready too let's go all right well gentlemen thank you very much randy yes one question here sorry um if you look up in the internet movie database under rush to judgment it not only lists the 67 film the classic but it lists mr lane as producer of a film called a rush to judgment that

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of a film called a rush to judgment that is supposedly still now in post-production does that really exist did you hear that so in the internet movie database to judgment i'm sorry what's the question it was about a rush to judgment another film it's basically the same thing with some musicians oh and so that's what you're doing now yeah that's out ready yeah uh mark not many people probably know about the trial in miami five uh was the basis of your book plausible denial the question was about um your book plausible denial and if uh you've ever considered making that into a film well emily's got a suggestion i'm welcome to the suggestions well i think it would be a useful film well i think you have a uh director of photography so amazon.com thank you very much and i'll be in touch

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